

Appl. No. 09/966,414
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 22 September 2005

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Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A method of modifying a first user's user profile for a data-class recommender, comprising the steps of:~~

receiving feedback from a first user scoring examples falling into various data-classes;

~~refining said a first user's user profile associated with the first user responsively to a said the feedback; and~~

~~modifying said the first user's user profile responsively to data from a second user's user profile associated with a second user; said step of modifying including modifying such that a frequency of recommendations of at least one data-class is increased without decreasing a frequency of recommendations of any other data-classes, whereby said so that the first user's user profile is expanded in scope according to preferences stored in said the second user's user profile.~~

2. (Currently amended) ~~A The method as in of claim 1, wherein~~

~~said the first user's user profile includes a specialized target description of favored data-classes, and~~

~~said step of modifying the first user profile includes generalizing said the specialized target description such that it encompasses at least one specialized target description of said the second user's user profile.~~

3. (Currently amended) ~~A The method as in of claim 2, wherein~~

~~said step of modifying the first user profile includes substituting at least a union of specialized descriptions of said the first user's user profile and said the second~~

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user's-user profile for ~~said-the~~ specialized description of ~~said-the~~ first user's-user profile.

4. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ method ~~as in of~~ claim 1, wherein

~~said step of generalizing~~ modifying the first user profile includes substituting at least a union of specialized descriptions of ~~said-the~~ first user's-user profile and ~~said the second user's-user profile~~ for ~~said-the~~ specialized description of ~~said-the~~ first user's-user profile.

5. (Currently amended) A method ~~of modifying a first user's-user profile for a data-class recommender, comprising the steps of:~~

receiving feedback from a first user scoring examples falling into various data-classes;

refining ~~said-a~~ first user's-user profile associated with the first user responsively to ~~a-said-the~~ feedback;

selecting test-data for revising ~~said-the~~ first user's-user profile responsively to data from at least a second user's-user profile associated with a second user; and

requesting feedback on ~~said-the~~ test-data from ~~said-the~~ first user and modifying ~~said-the~~ first user's-user profile responsively to ~~said-the~~ feedback;

wherein

selecting the test-data includes selecting primarily test-data for which the first user profile is insufficient for the recommender to determine whether the test-data would be favored or disfavored.

6. (Currently amended) A ~~The~~ method ~~as in of~~ claim 5, wherein

~~said step of selecting~~ the test-data includes selecting only test-data for which feedback incorporated in ~~said-the~~ first user's-user profile increases a discriminating power of ~~said-the~~ first user's-user profile.

7 (Canceled)

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8. (Currently amended) A The method as in of claim 5, wherein

said step of selecting the test data includes filtering a universe of data choices through a specialized description of a concept space.

9. (Currently amended) A data-class recommender, comprising:

a learning engine;

a user interface device ~~connectable~~ operably coupled to ~~said the~~ learning engine;

~~said the~~ learning engine being operably coupled ~~connectable~~ to a data source containing descriptions of data selections;

~~said the~~ learning engine being programmed to:

receive, through ~~said the~~ user interface device, feedback from a first user evaluating ~~said the~~ data selections; ~~and to~~

progressively generate a description of data selections that are favored and disfavored by ~~said the~~ first user based on the feedback, thereby generating a first user profile; ~~said learning engine being further programmed to~~

generate recommendations of data selections for ~~said the~~ first user responsively to ~~said the~~ first user profile; ~~and said learning engine being further programmed to~~

selectively generate recommendations of data selections for ~~said the~~ first user responsively to ~~said the~~ first user profile and at least a second user profile of a second user;

wherein

the learning engine is programmed such that the first user profile includes

a narrow description defining target data selections and

a broad description defining non-target data selections,

the recommendations being derived from a space of selections lying between the broad and narrow descriptions.

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10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) ~~A method as in~~ The recommender of claim 9, wherein
~~said learning engine is programmed such that said first user profile includes at
least a narrow description defining target data selections and
said the learning engine is further programmed to;~~
compare a level of narrowness in ~~said the~~ narrow description to a
threshold such that ~~said the~~ first user profile results in recommendations embracing a
range of target data that is narrower than ~~said the~~ threshold, and ~~said learning engine
is further programmed to~~
selectively generate recommendations of data selections for ~~said the~~
first user responsively to ~~said the~~ first user profile and ~~said~~ at least a second user
profile responsively to a result of ~~so~~-comparing ~~said the~~ level with ~~said the~~ threshold.